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Weekly Report to Commissioners

Community Concerns

Culvert Installation/Replacement Requests:

- 230 Road .25 mile south of Jade Road on the east side; a field access driveway, at a High Banks Wind Energy line crossing has its culvert damaged on the south end. *Investigating*
- 230 Road .5 mile south of Jade Road on the east side; a residential driveway culvert may need to be re-aligned with the flow line of the ditch, or the ditch may need re-graded. *Investigating*
- 130 Road .13 miles north of Elm Road; Resident requesting silt to be cleaned out from under box culvert and channel straightened.
- Talmo Lane .3 miles south of K-148; A 30"x 40' crossroad culvert has separated, and needs replaced. *Completed*
- Union Road .75 miles east of 100 road; A 18"x36' crossroad culvert needs replaced. *Due to elevation change and scouring of the road the culvert will be replaced with a 18"x50' Brokeback culvert. Materials have been ordered.*
- Union Road .65 miles east of 100 road; A small, dilapidated wood box culvert needs replaced with 30"x40' crossroad culvert.
- 70 Road .5 miles South of US 36 Hwy on the east side; A 30'x18" culvert extension requested. *Completed*

Other Concerns:

- 23rd Street in Belleville, west of US81, were county maintenance begins, on the north side of the Road; tree removal is needed from the rip-rap providing channel erosion protection at the bridge.
- 120 Road for .25 mile south of Timber Road on the east side; the dish needs cleaned. The property owner claims there is excessive erosion in places and sediment collecting on others. *Investigating*
- 230 road, south of Jade Road and south of the bridge at the half mile line on the east side; the owner is asking that the right-of-way be graded so that the property owner can mow it. *Investigating*
- Willow Road between 240 and 250 Roads; water is reportedly running over the road when it rains. *Investigating*

- Cedar Road .5 miles east of 250 Road on the north side; Resident requesting trees be removed from right of way for .5 miles. *Investigating*
- 2080 280 Road; a private driveway was damaged by Asphalt Trucks contracted to the County Project. We have notified the contractor, and they have agreed to fix it.
- King Road, for 1.25 miles east of US-81; residents are requesting that King be graveled. *Investigating*

Department Reports on Non-Routine Activities

Roads and Bridges

- Performance Evaluations have been completed for all staff.
- 2025 Wage Scales have been prepared for review by the Commission.
- Meetings continue with High Banks Wind Energy to resolve punch list items in order to finalize the project. It is estimated these will be resolved before January 20.

Transportation

- Public transportation is giving rides again this year to the Rocky Pond Christmas Lights display. This began on December 4th, continued on the 5th and is scheduled for the 11th, 12th, 18th, and the 19th. 11 residents participated in the tour on the 5th.

Solid Waste

- Republic County has been informed that our Solid Waste Disposal Rates through the Cloud County Transfer Station will likely increase from \$79.02 per ton (which is what the budget for 2025 is based on) to \$94.71 per ton while Cloud County considers and implements a longer term, more affordable solution sometime next year.

Republic County is proposing options that may allow those costs to be less while the Commission considers if Resident Solid Waste Fees need to increase and when. Republic County has not been offered an amended interlocal agreement with Cloud County yet for 2025.

It was reported last week that Resident Solid Waste Fees may need to increase as much as 22% to cover the additional costs Cloud County is suggesting. A sharper pencil and more time invested comparing expenses to revenue in detail, indicates that the increase may be less, even if no other option is accepted by Cloud County.

Republic and Cloud County Commissions will discuss options on December 16.

PENDING ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Bridge and Culverts Division Project List (in order of priority)

1. Norway Lane; drainage improvements are needed. This is currently being investigated by the Soil Conservation District and KDOT for private property improvements and KS148 ROW improvements which may solve
2. Zeal Road .25 miles east of 220 Road; Brush piled from right of way clearing several years ago needs to be removed or burned.
3. Valley Road .25 miles west of 150 Road; Bridge V-14.8 will be monitored weekly until the bridge can be replaced.
4. 150 Road .4 miles south of Valley Road; A 30" x 40' culvert under the road needs to be replaced along with some ditch cleaning and regrading of the road. Borrow material if needed may be available from an adjacent property owner. *Completed*

Roads and Driveways Division Project List (in order of priority)

1. 100 Road .28 miles south of Timber Road on the west side; A 30" squash crossroad pipe has been cleaned out transferring runoff from acreage on the east side to a shallow ditch on the west side that cannot get through a plugged culvert several hundred feet to the south. The farmer believes most of the runoff could stay on the west side with some ditch cleaning.
2. Queen Road west of 20 Road; Tree removal, ditch cleaning and driveway upgrades needed for the first .5 mile. *40 ft driveway installed; some ditch cleaning still needed.*
3. Penn Road east of Scandia on the south side; Trees/brush need to be removed from the right of way.
4. 30 Road improvements to restore the crown in the roadway between Highway 36 and Fir Road. *4 miles have been completed.*
5. Cut and patch 4-6' of concrete at 170 Road near residence 1549; *Two spalling control/contraction joints will be replaced during the next two weeks beginning Monday the 9th of December. 170 road will be reduced to one lane as concrete is poured, covered and cured before traffic is allowed on it, then work will commence in the other lane.*

Upcoming Events

1. December 16, conference call with Cloud County's Commission on Solid Waste issues.
2. U.S. Senator Roger Marshall, M.D. announced \$1,520,000 in grant funding to the North Central Regional Planning Commission from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program.
 - a. *The Highway Administrator is communicating with the North Central Region Planning Commission (NCRPC) about what this means for Republic County. Representatives for the NCRPC do not know yet but hope to bring all the member counties together within the next 60-90 days to consider next steps. Time to figure out why we have not heard more about this.*
3. Vacations of right of ways are proposed for 3 road spurs adjacent to Highway 81 that were abandoned after improvements to the highway many years ago.